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A BOOK

ADDRESSED TO THE

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PEOPLE OF SUFFOLK COUNTY,

UPON SOME

IMPORTANT POINTS

OF

NATIONAL POLICY.

BY WILLIAM JAGGAR. Jagger.

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR.

1836.

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TO THE  
PEOPLE OF SUFFOLK COUNTY.

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PERMIT me to address you, and call your attention to the affairs of our government. It is well known that I take a great interest in these affairs, a subject I never have until within two years, scarce taken any interest in. It appears strange to the people that I should quit my business for the sake of becoming a politician. It is quite as strange to me as it is to them. It is what I never thought would happen to me. I have taken so little interest that I never even attended a political meeting.

I will state the cause of my becoming a politician. One of our best and most learned gentlemen told me that if the affairs of our government did not soon alter we should have another form of government that would not be a *republican* government. The Hon. gentleman who told me this was Hull Osborne, Esq. (since then deceased.) He was well known to the people of *Suffolk County* as a learned, wise, and good man. He told me, the leaders of the administration party did not regard the Constitution, but violated it to suit their own selfish purposes. This wise and good man felt much for the good of his County, and the Constitution. What he said to me made a strong impression upon my mind, and I quit my business with a determination to know how our affairs were situated, and I have not spared any labor in finding out. And I can say to you, they are in a much worse state than I had any idea of. If the leaders do not regard the con-

stitution nor what *Gen. Jackson* recommends to be done for the people, but act to the reverse, as *I know they have done* in a most important case, are we to expect they will regard us? I know we have been most dreadfully deceived within eight years past, by those who pretend to be our friends. I will prove to you that we have been most *dreadfully* deceived and prove that the leaders have not regarded what *General Jackson* recommended to be done for the *good* of the people, but they have tried to act to the reverse, and greatly to the injury of the people. They tried last winter to pass a law that would injure us, and take from us Hundreds of Millions of our property. This I know they tried to do. It appears their object for this was to get Martin in as president. Are you not willing under these circumstances to become personally acquainted with the affairs of our government and no longer suffer yourselves to be led by blind and partially deranged office holders and office seekers? I hope the reader will endeavor to understand me, for I can assure him that he has as much interest in the subject as I have, and has as much to expect from any party as I do. It will not make any difference to me who we have for officers if they are honest and capable men. I do not want any favors from them that others do not want.

I do not want an office from any party, and I here promise that I never will hold an office to receive any thing for my services; no one will hardly believe that I want an office to serve the people for nothing.

I will now prove that we have been most dreadfully deceived and wronged out of our money within eight years.

Before *Gen. Jackson* was president, and while *Mr. Adams* was president we were told that he (*Mr. Adams*) spent our money wrongfully; that is, spent it for purposes that he ought not to have spent it for, and spent much more than he should have done. We were told that he spent forty thousand dollars to furnish the east room of the President's house as it is called—we were also told that if *Gen. Jackson* was president he would not spend so much of our money, but would save it for us. This they repeatedly told us, and now let us see how much truth there was in these charges against *Mr. Adams*, and see

if this administration has saved our money as they promised, and have actually spent less than *Mr. Adams*.

I went to Washington for the purpose of finding out the truth of a number of charges, and how our affairs were managed. And I stayed near six months there for this purpose and to hear what was going on. I was told by a number of gentlemen that *Mr. Adams* did not furnish that *particular* east room. I spent a number of evenings with *Mr. Adams*, and he told me he did not furnish the room that he was charged with furnishing. He said he did not lay out one dollar to furnish said east room. But since *Gen. Jackson* has been president this room has been furnished, and it cost, as I am credibly informed, forty thousand dollars. You may depend that this charge against *Mr. Adams* for spending forty thousand dollars to furnish that particular room, is as false as it would be for you to say you had not this paper in your hand. Are we to put up with such charges that are made for no other purpose but to deceive us and to injure an honest president? Will we suffer a public officer to be treated in this way, and ourselves deceived, and pass it off with scarce any notice? I hope it will be long remembered by all persons. If any person dare dispute me or does not believe what I have stated, if said person will give me three hundred dollars, if I can prove it to the satisfaction of *Abraham Gardner, Esq.* (Merchant of Sag-Harbor) and *Col. Benjamin Case* (Merchant of Southold) that *Mr. Adams* did not furnish said east room, I will give said persons one thousand if I cannot prove it to their satisfaction that *Mr. Adams* did not furnish the said room.

The above gentlemen must go to Washington and hear what can be proved concerning this case. This is a fair offer and these gentlemen are both administration men.

As it respects *Mr. Adams'* spending our money for other purposes, wrongfully, and spending more than he ought to have done, I believe is as false as the charge of his furnishing that particular room. He told me he did not spend any more than it was necessary.

You may judge from what *Gen. Jackson's* administration has spent, whether *Mr. Adams* did spend and squander our

money away. As it respects *Gen. Jackson's* spending less than *Mr. Adams*, it is false.

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*A plain statement of the expenses of the present administration  
as compared with those of former administrations.*

I here present you with the expenses of the Government for twelve years. This is for two years of President Monroe; four years of President Adams, and six years of President Jackson. I presume it is correct. I employed a competent person to assist me and I instructed him to spare no pains to have it correct, and I attended to it myself also. President Monroe and President Adams spent in six years, sixty nine millions two hundred and seventy-eight thousand five hundred and seventy-one dollars and sixty-nine cents. This is exclusive of what they paid on account of public debt and what they paid on account of awards under former treaties which is the same as a public debt. They paid on account of public debt in six years, sixty-seven millions four hundred and one thousand nine hundred and forty-three dollars and sixty cents. They paid on account of awards under former treaties, (which is the same as a public debt) six millions three hundred and thirty-six thousand six hundred and forty dollars and ninety-two cents. These two sums make seventy-three millions seven hundred and thirty-eight thousand five hundred and eighty-four dollars and fifty-two cents. There was spent under president Jackson's administration in six years, ninety-six millions seven hundred and twenty-one thousand four hundred and forty-seven dollars and seventy-nine cents. This is exclusive of payments on account of public debt and money paid on account of awards under former treaties. There was paid in six years under president Jackson's administration on account of public debt, sixty-five millions four hundred and seventy-four thousand three hundred and forty-five dollars. There was paid on account of awards under former treaties, seven hundred and fourteen thousand nine hundred and thirty-



one dollars. These two sums make sixty-six millions one hundred and eighty-nine thousand two hundred and seventy-six dollars. You will observe by this statement that there was spent in six years under President Jackson's administration twenty-seven millions four hundred and forty-two thousand eight hundred and seventy-six dollars more than was spent in two years of President Monroe and four years of President Adams. Is this fulfilling the promise that President Jackson would spend less of our money than John Q. Adams had done? Is it not as false as the charge of his having furnished that east room? Presidents Monroe, and Adams paid on account of Public Debt and on account of awards under former treaties seven millions five hundred and forty-eight thousand three hundred and seven dollars and thirty-six cents more than was paid under President Jackson's administration in the same time—six years. This must appear strange to all persons who did not well understand this before. How often have we heard and been told that President Jackson was paying off our Public Debt. One would really conclude that it was a fact that President Jackson was paying off our Public Debt, while the other Presidents paid but a small sum compared with what Gen. Jackson was actually paying. Why were we often told about President Jackson's paying off the Public Debt? We heard scarce any thing of any other President's paying off the Public Debt. This was told to flatter and deceive us—to convey the idea that President Jackson was actually doing more for us than any other President had done. Is it possible that there is a person in this County who wishes to be called a man of information and veracity that will support leaders that result to such mean acts to deceive us; for no man of information and candor can deny that the people have been not willfully deceived by the leaders of the administration party, while those opposed to them have dealt honestly with the people. I say honestly, for I cannot find an instance where they have *not* dealt honestly. Strange as it must appear it is no more strange than true, that, after we had been told that president Jackson would save our money he has, as appears, spent and squandered away more in six years, than was spent in six years previous, which,

if it had been saved and divided equally among the people, if we allow twelve millions and a half in the United States, then allow thirty thousand for this County, it would give to this County sixty-five thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars. This sum would about pay all your taxes, and pay for schooling all your children for four years. This sum has been spent and squandered from us and no one has seemed to know it.

Turn your attention now for a moment, to what we were told about the United States Bank spending our money,—this was rung over and over again in our ears. They say the Bank spent forty thousand dollars. One fifth of this sum belonged to the people. That would be eight thousand dollars; this sum divided would give this county about twenty dollars. You see the difference yet you heard much of the twenty dollars being spent and *but little of sixty-five thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars*. Who can be so blinded as not to see their deception their object being to keep up an excitement to blind us. Who can be so deceived as to hold up those who are trying to pull all the people down. I observe in a public Journal that was printed at Washington that they have taken pains to show us what will be expended for the support of our Government for sixteen years. This is for four years of President Monroe, four years of President Adams, and eight years of President Jackson's administration. If they spend this year all that is actually appropriated for this year including the unexpended balances, as officially reported by the Secretary of the Treasury, that was appropriated a year or two ago—if this money that is actually appropriated is all spent this year, there will be a difference between the eight years of Monroe and Adams, and the eight years of Jackson, according to their account, of seventy-two millions four hundred and fifty-five thousand five hundred and fifty dollars and twenty-six cents. If this enormous sum is spent this year it will be spending for each person five dollars seventy-nine cents. What a tax this would be for us to pay! Suffolk County would have to pay one hundred and seventy-three thousand seven hundred dollars. If Old Suffolk had to raise that sum in eight years by a tax, we all should feel the burden to be very great. I believe this is a greater sum than Suffolk County has paid.

in ten years for schooling and taxes. This is enough to start any man from his eight years of slumber. I would not have believed that it was possible for a few political aspirants to keep up such an excitement among the people, until they could spend and squander one quarter of that sum. It shocks me to know what wicked men and knaves can do. If you will not look to your interest I shall feel that I have done my duty. If you are sufficiently awake to your interest to come out boldly and fearlessly for GEN. HARRISON for your president, your money will be divided among the States and your land will not be sold at one half that it is now selling for. An honest man will not wrong you, and you should not hesitate to place confidence in him.

I have not the least doubt but this account is correct, as twelve years of their account agrees with mine, they present each year separately. The appropriations for this year are very large and I cannot believe they can spend it this year as large as it is. It is not near as large as the leaders of the administration party tried for near six months to have it. They do not appear to have any bounds for appropriations, for the great leader of the party COL. THOMAS H. BENTON tried to have all the surplus set aside for fortifications.

If this administration spends this year all that is actually appropriated, it will spend lacking seventeen millions three hundred and eight thousand seven hundred and sixteen dollars, as much again as Mr. Monroe and Mr. Adams spent in eight years previous. Are we to pass this off unnoticed? surely not. It is high time the people began to look to their interest themselves, and not trust office holders and office seekers, for I am surprised to see how deaf and how blind an office makes a person; it appears to be all self with a part of them, regardless of the interest of the people. Are we to be told that Mr. Adams injured us by spending our money wrongfully? are we to be told that such a person would save our money when in fact he has spent almost double? Gentlemen, do not let this pass unnoticed—do not read the above and lay it aside but a few days before you read it again. I feel a great interest in the people's becoming acquainted with the acts of leaders of this party. As to my statement of their expenses, I am willing



to pay the expenses of any competent person whom the people will put confidence in if he will go to Washington and investigate the expenses of the government for the last sixteen years. I will recommend him to a competent person who will prepare the books and assist him if required. This person must be an administration man.

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*The Public Lands and the interest which every member of community and every man in Suffolk County has in them!*

It is high time that all persons became acquainted with the affairs of our government. If they could but see the millions of our money that has been squandered; and see, and understand, those who are trying to destroy our Constitution, and our Republican Government, for the purpose of building upon the ruins, a government that would deprive us of our liberty, a proper view of this would rouse them up. As our money is spent and cannot be got back we must bear it. I now wish to call your attention to your interest in your land: you have a great interest in land, that is, if you are a man of a family. According to a report of the Committee on Public lands made to the Senate there were one billion six hundred and ninety million eight hundred and seventy-one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three acres of land that were unsold, and that belongs to the people.

There are about twelve millions five hundred thousand people in the United States exclusive of Indians and colored people. This includes old and young. Now this land divided among the people gives to each person eighty seven acres. This gives to each person who has a wife and three children four hundred and thirty-five acres—you see this is making all persons rich in lands. There is about thirty thousand people in this County, and the right which this County owns in their lands is two millions six hundred and ten thousand acres. There is in this County about seven hundred and sixty-eight thousand acres of land which is not one third as much as we own in common with all the people. This land sold at the



price we are now selling it at, which is one dollar twenty-five cents per acre, amounts to the enormous sum of three millions two hundred and sixty-two thousand dollars. There was sold of our lands last year, (as Mr. Ewing, Senator, gave me the account,) fifteen millions eight hundred and sixteen thousand dollars worth. This sum divided among the people would give to this County thirty-seven thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight dollars. This sum is about twice as much as the people of this County pay for schooling and for taxes. Is it not worthy of your notice to receive as much as you now have to pay for schooling and taxes? This is your due and you can have it, if you will but look to your interest.

If there is no more lands sold than for this County to have thirty thousand dollars a year for its share, it would take one hundred and eighty years to sell all our lands. You see you have a great interest in lands. This you ought to know so that you may know how to prize them. Your title for this land is just as good as your title is for your hat or any other article you possess. This land might be divided among the States, and Counties, and people. Suppose they were, and each person had his own share set off to him, and he knew where to find it, he could then know how to prize it; and he would prize it high, for much of it is of the best quality. It is perhaps better that the land is all together, for now it is offered for sale at a very small price, and in small parcels, so that a poor man that has fifty dollars can purchase forty acres of good land, and we all know that a man that cannot raise fifty dollars had better not own a farm, for he would be too lazy to work on it, and can do better to work by the day or month. If our land was set off to us, we would not sell it perhaps for five times as much as it is selling for now. As part of it is poor land, then of course the poor people would have to take part of the poor land for their share; and they could not sell it nor could they buy the good land as the price would be so high that they could not pay for it; as we do own the land it cannot make any odds to us whether we pay for it when we want land for a farm, or whether it was set off to us; if we pay for it then, of course, if we should live to see the land all sold, then we receive the money the land sells for, which is the

same as to have our land set off to us. This you must, I believe, see and understand. Any person that wants land can buy at the small price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. This price is so low that it will cause speculators to buy almost all the land, then the poor man must buy of them at their price. As there is so much land to sell, the speculators cannot buy all of it at the price it is now selling for; if the price was low enough, then of course they could buy it all. You see then, to sell it for a less price would put into rich men's hands the most of the lands, and no man can complain of the price now. You know that land has risen very much within a few years; this makes our land appear low as it really is. Our public lands sell now for the same price they have for about twenty years. You must see plainly that to sell this land for any less price would injure the poor and help the rich, as the rich would buy almost all the land and the poor must pay their price.

Can any one make you believe, under these circumstances, that it is best to sell our land for just half the price that it is selling for now, and where Suffolk County can receive thirty thousand dollars a year that it is not best to receive but fifteen thousand? No man it appears to me can be of the opinion that it is better to sell our land for half it is selling for. The land cannot be settled any faster for it, unless we leave our land and business here, or it is settled by foreigners, (which it would be) and it appears to me that foreigners are coming here fast enough without any other inducements being held out to them.

At any rate whether you can see any reason for selling our land for half the price it is selling for or not, I will assure you that a number of the members of Congress have been trying to reduce the price of our land, and last winter the Committee on Public Lands did actually bring in a bill that it might become a law, that our lands should be sold for just one half they are selling for at this time and have been for twenty years. These lands appear very low from the great sale last year. There was more of our land sold last year than has been sold for many years before. This is a proof that they are low and that they were bought mostly by speculators. Yet as

strange as it may appear the Committee on Public lands actually brought in a bill for the purpose that it might become a law to graduate the price of our lands to just one half the present price. That was not all—but to *give away* a great part of our lands! What right have our public Servants to give away our lands? They have no such right. Under these circumstances had this bill became a law our land would have been sold after the fourth of July past for one dollar per acre, for one year; next year for seventy-five cents per acre; the next year for fifty cents per acre; the next for twenty-five cents per acre; and what did not sell for that price in one year were to be given to the States that the lands are in. As there is so much land for sale there would of course be much that would not sell even at the small price of twenty-five cents per acre, and this we should lose. You wish to know why some of the members wanted to sell our lands at this rate? it is strange I admit,—not very strange neither if understood. I believe it was done to hold out a great inducement for the people of the new states to support Martin Van Buren and his party, who were trying to give our land to them; you see it would not only give them much land, but it would give them a great opportunity to buy our land for half price. I found this idea of selling our lands for half price and giving away the remainder much pleased the people from the new States. I found they would support Martin, when they would not have done it had it not been for the sake of getting our land in this way. This I know is the case for I have seen a number of persons from the new states, and in conversing with them I found they did not like Martin, *but for the sake of the land* they would support him, for they well knew no *honest* man would let them have our land for half price if he could help it. It is strange to tell, but it is true; the leaders well know that those in office in this State will support Martin let what will become of our land. The next object was to get all the people of the new States or rather a majority of them; they then thought of course they could get in Martin, and I found it operated well for him. They may possibly get in Van Buren but I am not the least afraid of their getting our land if you will only look to your interest



in your land. For our members dare as well die as to give our lands away after the people find out we have them, or to reduce the price when they know it is low already. You can see by this how little these leaders care for you, or to what party you belong. It is strange how mean an office will make some people appear, yet they do not regard it if they can get the office. It appears to me you must be convinced that it was not on account of the interest of the people that they tried to reduce the price of our lands nor to help the poor. You must it appears to me, believe as I do, that it was to get the new States to help Martin. This is a most deplorable case and hard to believe, that there is a few leaders that will resort to any measures if it will but help them to an office, but you may depend it is the case, and there is a few persons in the County of Suffolk that in my opinion would be willing for the people to lose all their interest in these lands if they could but have an office. This is saying much I admit, and is a hard charge, but I am afraid they will prove it true to your satisfaction and to their disgrace for if they will do all they can to support those who are trying to reduce the price of our land one half to help Martin, they of course would give the other half, if necessary, for there is as much reason for giving all our land away as one half; for if it takes half to buy the new States, if necessary, they would of course give the other half with it.

I cannot conceive what plainer and stronger proof we want to convince us that our officers have become most dreadfully corrupt than this attempt to reduce the price of our land one half at this time when the great sales prove that our land is very low, and general information proves it also. If we left property to sell with a person, and after he had made some great sales if he should fall half on our property we could say he was in company with the person to whom he sold our property, and by that means had robbed us of half of our property.

I have charged them with trying to pass a law to reduce the price of our land one half, and when you are convinced that the charge is a true one, then you, I believe, will agree with me, that they did try to take from us hundreds of millions of our property.

You will be convinced, if not already, that the land is low at the price it is now selling for; do you call persons honest that would sell your property for half price, for the sake of having Martin Van Buren President? I do not call that an honest act, for the great sales of our land prove it is low, and we all know the money is not wanted. Then there is no excuse for the act. I said they did not regard the President, but tried to defeat what he recommended to be done for the people. Gen. Jackson in his message of 1829 and 1830 recommended the distribution of the Surplus Revenue among the States. The leaders of the administration party have tried all winter to prevent the money from being distributed. In his message in 1829 he said, "it is not probable that any adjustment of the tariff, upon principles satisfactory to the people of the union will, until a remote period, if ever, leave the government without a considerable surplus in the Treasury, beyond what may be required for its current service."

Do observe and remember that Gen. Jackson says, it is not probable that the adjustment of the tariff will, until a remote period, if ever, leave the government without a considerable surplus in the Treasury. You understand he says it is not probable that the time will ever be, when the tariff will be so small that it will take all the money to support the government. Now observe what he says appears to him to be best to do with this Surplus Revenue. He says, "it appears to me that the most safe, just, and federal disposition which could be made of the Surplus Revenue, would be its apportionment among the states according to their ratio of representation."

What can the President do more, than to recommend it to Congress, and this you see he has done to your satisfaction. Now observe what he says in his message to Congress the year following, concerning the distribution of the Surplus Revenue, and you will see he is of the same opinion, that there will be a Surplus Revenue, and it must be distributed. "He says, "In my first message, I stated it to be my opinion that it is not probable that any adjustment of the tariff upon principles satisfactory to the people of the union, will until a remote period, if ever, leave the government without a considerable surplus in the Treasury, beyond what may be required for

its current service." He further says, "I have had no cause to change that opinion, but much to confirm it." You here have the opinion of the President in two of his official messages to Congress, that it will not be best, or it is not likely that the tariff will ever be so small but what it will bring more money into the Treasury than will be wanted for the support of the government. Do not forget that the President is of the opinion that the tariff will not very soon if ever be so small but what it will more than support the government.

And of the Surplus Revenue, he says it is his opinion that it is best to divide it among the several States; after all this, the leaders of the party came out and opposed distributing our money, regardless of the opinion of the President. Who could suppose they would dare to have done it? They pretend to be the friends of the President and the People, yet regardless of them both they are guilty of the charge. I have found them out, and I know they have not dealt honestly with us, and I believe I can prove it to your satisfaction. I am often told that it is not best to collect money by a tariff to distribute among the people. You see the President speaks in almost as strong language, as to say it cannot be avoided. I hope the reader will reflect on what Gen. Jackson has said. Think of this, and think of what you have said or what you have heard others say to try to justify Col. Thomas H. Benton, Isaac Hill, Silas Wright and the great Buchanan, senators, in trying to prevent us from having our money. Is it not strange that the leaders would (contrary to the will of the President and what they knew was right,) try so hard for near six months, to prevent a law being passed for the purpose of distributing our money? they knew it could not half of it be used to our advantage. We shall have about seventy millions of dollars in these pet banks this year. Why keep our money from us, and not pay us any interest for it? we ought to have had the money this year. They pretended to want to do wonders, in building fortifications this year; if it was necessary to do so much this year, was it not as necessary that as much should have been done last year, when we were afraid that we should have war with France? all honest men must admit that it was as necessary. Why did they not come out then, and talk of for-



tifications? it was quite the reverse with them. They could defeat a bill that was to appropriate money for fortifications, and they did it, and by that means, there was not one dollar appropriated for fortifications last year. Gen. Jackson in his message to Congress complained about the loss of the bill. He said much loss and inconvenience have been experienced in consequence of the failure of the bill. What do they care? This session they spent much time to get all our money, set aside for fortifications. What do you think of such conduct among our public servants? one year contrive and manage so as to defeat a bill; and next year, pretend it is very necessary to set aside all our money that is not wanted for the support of the government for fortifications, and try for near six months, to get five times as much as could be used to advantage. This I know they did try to do, for I was present with them for near six months. This is not all the leaders have done to defeat Gen. Jackson; you know he is for having specie currency, and is opposed to banks; he has been trying to stop the banks, and the leaders *pretend* to be trying to stop the banks, at the same time it is not half the trouble, to get a bank at this time, that it was before the leaders came out, and pretended to want to stop the banks, and have gold and silver instead of paper.

Look back to the time when there was not one bank on Long Island, and call to your recollection how long they tried and what they said they would do. They offered to dig a canal, on the south side of Long Island, to connect the bays together. They were for years trying to get a bank before they got one. Last winter you see, they got one without much trouble, a year or two ago they got one without much trouble. All this time, the leaders tell you *gold and silver is best*, and it is not best to have paper. They say it is nothing but rags and trash. Who can avoid seeing the deception that is practiced upon us. I know the leaders do not regard the people, neither did they last session of Congress do as their own judgment and reason taught them they ought to have done for the people. If they had, they would not have turned and twisted as they did, to try to prevent us from having our money for our land.

In conversation with Gen. Jackson, concerning our public land and money now on hand, I told him I wanted my part of the money that our land had sold for, as it was not needed for the use of the government. I also told him the great sales of our land was proof that it was low, and I did not want my part sold for any less price. If I have not satisfied you that the leaders of the administration party, do not regard the people or Gen. Jackson, I cannot conceive what proof would satisfy you.

After telling us they would save our money, they have expended millions and millions more than was necessary. And not satisfied with that, they have tried to reduce the price of our land one half, which is low at the present price; and they have done their best to prevent our money, which was not wanted for the use of the government, from being distributed. You see it is the opinion of Gen. Jackson that the money our government will receive by the tariff will be more than enough to support the government for years to come, if not forever. Now I wish to know in the name of common sense, what did the leaders wish or expect to do with not only the money from the tariff which Gen. Jackson recommended for us to have and with our money that is in the United States Bank together with the fifteen million eight hundred and sixteen thousand dollars that our land sold for last year. And it will no doubt sell for as much this year. We received from our revenue last year, thirty-five millions two hundred and sixty-one thousand dollars. We shall no doubt receive as much this year. That sum is more than twice as much as is necessary to be expended for the expenses of the government. I want the people to know this—it is their money, and their duty to see to it. You know they have said much against banks, but you see it is not half the trouble to get one, at the present time, as formerly. They have tried, by a false charge, to set the people against the senate, that was in the case of Col. Benton's charging the senate with the loss of the Fortification Bill, which charge was proved by the journals to have been false. I have the journals of Congress for the sessions of 1834 and 1835, and by these journals I can prove to the satisfaction of any reasonable person, that Col. Benton made a false charge



against the senate. Isaac Hill also said, the bill was lost in the Senate. They both knew the charge was a false one, as they were senators at the time the bill was lost.

I will relate a story that will apply to some of the leaders of the administration party. There was a Miller that was so noted for his honesty that he was not suspected of taking too much toll, and he became so bold, that he at last took all the grist and ground the toll, and when the farmers came again he took the toll and swore them out of their bags. They then made a great discovery, they found out their Miller had not been honest for a number of years. And if you become well acquainted with the acts of the administration you will find that they have not been honest with you for a number of years.

*A sketch of the character of Martin Van Buren.*

As we are soon to make choice of a person for President it is our duty to select one that will do justice towards us. I have taken much pains to investigate the character and principles of the candidates for president. I have become acquainted with a number of persons who are well acquainted with the candidates, and a number who live near Gen. Harrison and who know him well—also, a number who have known Martin Van Buren from a school boy.

I will give you a short account of Van Buren:—Much of his time has been spent in office, or endeavoring to obtain an office; whether this or that measure will be the most popular, or what man will run best for a candidate, without any reference to the interest of the people. It is difficult to find which side of the question he is upon. He does not speak out like other men, for which has been given to him the title of *non committal*. Let his friends deny this. I will mention one of the acts of Martin Van Buren that will convince many people and prove to all persons that he is not fit to have the charge of our government, or any thing except his own business, as he

is regardless of the interest of the people. The act of his that I have reference to is his making the treaty with England to regulate our trade with her West India Islands. It is said Solomon built the temple; we mean it was built by his instruction; the treaty I speak of was made in compliance with the instructions of Martin Van Buren. Mr. Adams was charged with spoiling our trade at those Islands. It was the treaty that was made to restore that trade I have reference to that Martin made. As so much was said about Mr. Adams spoiling the trade with the British West India Isles, I desire you would understand it; I shall state the case in so plain a way that all persons can understand it if they have a mind to.

That all persons may understand me, I shall give you a general idea how we manage to regulate trade with another nation. Their is a principle that our government has treated upon ever since it was a government, and president Washington supported the principle. It is just and honorable as respects regulating the trade with another nation. You must understand that on almost all the foreign goods brought to this country there is something to pay before they can be sold here. This is called duties; and the money goes for the support of our government and to pay our debts. Suppose the duties on molasses were three cents a gallon, this would be about one dollar on a barrel. A ship that brings 1500 barrels you see would pay \$1,500 duties. This sum must be paid on all the molasses that is brought to our ports in our ships. Now suppose our government pass a law that all the molasses brought in foreign ships should pay twelve cents on a gallon, then the foreign ship owners must pay \$4 a barrel on every ship load, which would amount to \$6,000. This he must pay or he cannot sell it here; You must see at once that the difference of the freight is great. Our ship owner pays \$1,500 and the foreign ship owner \$6,000—that is \$4,500 more than our ship pays. Our ship would be sure to make \$4,500 more on her freight than the foreign ship. This great difference in the duties would often prevent foreign ships from coming to our ports. If we charged such a great difference on a foreign ship, when they come to our port, foreign nations would charge that difference on goods that our ships brought into their ports.

Now to avoid all this trouble, our government sends a Minister to France to inform them that their ships may bring molasses here and sell it and they need not pay any more than three cents on a gallon, or no more than our ship owners pay—that is, if Congress charges three cents per gallon on our ships, then they will not charge any more than three cents, if brought in French ships. This you see gives both ships an equal chance, as they both pay equal duties, not only on molasses but on every thing that is brought here from France. She agrees to that, but observe, Congress sends word also, that if goods brought here in French ships do not pay any more duty than if brought in an American ship, they must not charge any more duties on goods that are carried to France in an American ship, than if it was brought there in a French ship. France also agrees to that. Then a treaty is made with France on these terms. This makes the trade reciprocal between America and France. This is the way that our government has made treaties with most all the nations of Europe; on this principle a treaty was made between this country and England in the year 1817, that when we carry goods to England in our ships we pay no more duty on them than if carried in an English ship, and it is the same with a British vessel that brings goods here from England, they pay no more duty on the article than if it was brought in our own ship. This gives all persons an equal chance, and is right, just and honorable. Observe—England did not include in the treaty that we made, her West India Islands, and it is the trade with those Islands that has caused all the trouble. The people at these islands were so situated that they could not get along without our goods, or suffering a great inconvenience. They could not sell their molasses at any other market and do as well as they could to sell it to us. They of course wanted our trade very much. And one would naturally suppose that England would have been willing to make a treaty on the same principle that we make treaties with other nations, and had made it so with her, with the exception of our trading with her West India Islands. This could not be done, and England has passed a number of laws to regulate our trade with those West India Islands.

Our government also passed a law to meet it. England turned and twisted, but she could not better herself; then she would repeal her law. England wanted to make a treaty to regulate the trade with her West India Islands. In this way she said she would not charge any more duties on goods that were brought in our ships, than in their ships, if they both started from an American port. That is if an English ship came here and bought goods to carry to the West Indies, and the ship went direct from our port to the West Indies, without first going to an English port before she went to the West Indies—in all such cases then, our ships might carry goods and pay no more duties than their ships paid that went direct from here. But in all cases where their ships cleared from one of their ports then they wanted the right to charge less duties than we paid, when our ships carried the same goods there. Their plan to charge no more when their ships and our ships both went from our port, was all done to blind and deceive us; for if they came here and loaded their ships, then before they went to the West Indies, if they went to one of their ports, which is about two days sail from our eastern ports where they want to come after our goods, they evade the duty.

Observe—England then wanted the privilege of making us pay more duties than that ship paid which had actually bought our goods and only had to sail two days to a British port, then it would be the same as if the goods were put on board at that British port. The British saw that if they could make a treaty like that, they could get our goods and the carrying of them in their own ships, then lay so much duty on our goods that were carried in our ships that it would spoil our freights. This plan they could not work out until Martin had the management of making a treaty with them which enabled them to accomplish their plan and destroy our trade.

I hope you now understand the principle and plan on which we make treaties. Now observe.

While *Mr. Adams* was president, England made a law that stopped our ships from going to her West India Islands, then *Mr. Adams* stopped their ships from coming from her West Indies to our port. Now you observe, as we cannot go there nor they come here, the trade is spoiled. As I have said,



England wants our goods, and wishes to sell us hers. It was the carrying of those goods that made all the trouble. As they wanted our trade, one would suppose that an honorable treaty, such as we had made with other nations, and with her to go from here to England, would have been made with her, to regulate the trade with her West India Islands. This could not be done at this time. As strange as it may appear, we perhaps had as many of their goods and they of ours as we had when we went direct from our ports to their Islands, and they perhaps had as many of our goods as they had when they came direct from their West India Islands to our ports. Now observe how the trade was carried on, for us to get their goods, and they ours, at that time. The *Danes* have Islands lying about two days sail from the *British West India Islands*, and it is about the same distance from here to the *Danes West India Islands* as it is to the *British*, and it takes about eighteen days to go from here to those Islands. We traded at the *Danes West India Islands*, and at that time we carried our goods and sold to the *Danes* and bought their molasses, sugar, coffee, &c. And the English went to the same Danish Islands that we went to and carried their molasses, sugar, coffee, &c., and sold it to the *Danes*. And of the *Danes* they bought the very same goods that we carried there. It would often happen that English ships and our ships would meet there, and the goods were shifted from our ships to theirs and from theirs to ours, that is the way the trade was carried on. The *Danes* Islands, answered for a place to ship the goods, and that is all that I can see can be made out of it. Now if you can see any difference that it made as it respects our trade I should be glad to know it and understand it. The distance was about the same from here to the *Danes* Islands where we carried and sold our goods, and bought the same goods that the English had carried there and sold, as it was to the *British* Islands, where we had been to buy and sell goods, and now could not go. As the distance was about the same, the freight was of course about the same. If the reader understands me I believe he will take the same view of it that I do. As the English ships could not come here from her Islands we had the carrying of all our goods there and the bringing of

all their goods here, and in this way we had most all the trade. As there is a great amount of goods wanted to supply us, and the English, the trade was of great advantage to us, us it must have given employment to a large number of ships. Thousands of hogsheads of molasses, rum, together with the sugar, coffee, &c., was brought from there here. Our freights were also great in Horses, mules, cattle, candles, butter, cheese, pork, beef, fish, soap, flour, pitch, timber, boards and staves, for all those articles were wanted. Taking all these together you must know the freight was of great importance to us at that time. Mr. Adams was charged with spoiling the trade. It was by the noble act of Mr. Adams that actually gave us most all the trade. It was his act. Congress left it with Mr. Adams to do as he thought best; and after the English stopped our ships from going to their West India Islands, then Mr. Adams stopped their ships from coming here from those Islands. This was doing just as you would have him to do. And the English by their bad management actually put almost all the trade into our hands; they had not much more to do with the freight of the goods than to carry their goods to the Danes, and to bring ours from there to their Islands. This was about two days sail from the one place to the other, and it took our ships to go from here there, about eighteen days; this made quite a voyage for our ships. And this was the way that the trade was carried on when General Jackson came into office. I have endeavored to give you a fair conception of this whole story of Mr. Adams' spoiling our trade. I have satisfied myself that Mr. Adams done as he ought to have done, and no blame, of course, should have been inflicted on him, if the act of his stopping the English ships from coming from their Islands to our ports had spoiled the trade. They are guilty of two crimes, one for blaming a public servant for doing his duty, and the other for making a false charge, which was, to say that Mr. Adams had spoiled our trade. You must, it appears to me, see that Mr. Adams did not spoil our trade but actually improved it. Can we expect that honest men will consent to become our public servants if they are to have their characters tarnished by false charges, and when they do a just and honorable act, that they

must be charged with doing an unjust act. I am sure the robbers of our characters are guilty of a greater crime than he that robs us of our money, and why not be made to suffer more. What is the life of an honest man worth who has been robbed of his character? General Jackson soon had a treaty made, and Martin Van Buren had the management of the business, and ought to be held responsible for his acts, and if the treaty be a good one the credit and merits belong to him, and if it was badly managed, he ought to have the disgrace attached to his acts.

In the instructions he gave Mr. McLane, the minister who made the treaty, he tells him that our government had done wrong in not accepting the terms that England had offered; and he instructed him (Mr. McLane) to make the treaty on the terms that they had offered, and the treaty was made on those terms. And the principle that our government had acted on for almost fifty years was actually given up by Van Buren and that treaty was made on such terms that it almost spoiled our trade. Our ship owners must pay about twenty per cent more on the goods they carry to the British West India Islands in our ships than if carried in the English ships. We must pay two dollars and eighty-eight cents more on a barrel of pork than if carried in the British ships. If our ships carry 1500 barrels of pork the owner must pay \$4,320 more duties on that cargo than if the cargo was brought there in their own ships.

This great difference in the duties spoils our freights and of course spoils our trade, and the English ships have almost all the trade. Now they come from their Islands and bring a load of their goods here, and then take a load of our goods, sail about two days to one of their eastern ports, then from these they go to their West India Islands. they get a freight both ways, and the duties being so high on goods that we carry that it spoils our freight as we cannot have a freight there. If we must go without a freight, they having one both ways, they can do well when we cannot do any business worth having. The cause of the English ships that have our goods on board first going to an English port near by here is this, if they went direct from our port to the West In-

dies they must pay the same duties that we have to pay if carried from here in our ships, but if they take our goods into their ships and go to one of their ports, which is only about two days sail from our port, then they do not have to pay any duties; it is the same as if the goods were put on board at an English port.

This information Mr. Adams gave to me; and a number of merchants in New York who are well acquainted in the trade inform me that our trade was good at the time Mr. Adams was charged with spoiling it. Carried on in the way above stated they say it is now spoiled and it was spoiled in consequence of Martin Van Buren's treaty. I have endeavored to make a plain and fair statement of this case. I hope the reader will have the goodness to read it over till he understands it. It certainly ought to be understood by all persons, and every public servant ought to be exposed when his acts prove that he is not acting for the good of the people, but totally regardless of their interest. He is acting for himself. It cannot be concealed or denied but that Van Buren must have known that such a treaty would have spoiled our trade. England had offered to make just such a treaty before. Our government saw the effect of it, and they would not make such a treaty. We know that Martin Van Buren is a public man, and of course must have known this. He knew it, and in his instructions to our minister he states that our government have done wrong by not accepting the terms that England had offered. Are we to have our privileges and our rights bartered away by our servants? Gentlemen, this will not do. I know that this act of Van Buren's making the treaty as he did, has not been looked into but by a few persons. It has not been understood by only a few of the country people. To be plain I never knew till last winter, and I never heard any person fairly explain it to me before last winter. Van Buren would not have been a candidate for president had this case been fairly understood.

In my opinion of this case Van Buren deserves to be tried for this act as much as Gen. Hull did for giving up the army and fort. I go further, he ought to be punished as well as impeached. I feel for those merchants and traders for they are



mortified to see British ships often coming here with their goods, then take ours and carry back while our trader cannot do any business scarce worth having. Let Van Buren's friends in New York deny this. Let us follow Van Buren a little further. We know there is a person who appears to be at the head of all meetings, companys, &c. We know Gen. Jackson recommended for us to have the surplus revenue. Who is it at the head of those who have endeavored so hard for almost six months to prevent us from having our surplus revenue? The interest on our money for this year is worth fifteen hundred thousand dollars; this we might have had if the Van Buren men had been willing for us to have had our money as Gen. Jackson did recommend. Who is that person who believed if Van Buren had desired that we should have had our money, that those persons would oppose it so long? There is a letter in the newspapers written by Van Buren to Mr. Williams, a gentleman in Kentucky. In this letter Van Buren opposes our money being distributed among the States. The letter is positive proof that Van Buren is opposed to our having our money as Gen. Jackson recommended. Who is at the head of those who wish to reduce the price of our land one half? Who is to be benefitted by it? Van Buren. He is in hopes to be president by this act. I believe him at the head of this attempt to sell our land at half price. What kind of management is this that has given Van Buren the name of non committal. Is it any other? After finding out the opinion of the majority of those who are to vote upon the question, he is then sure to be in the majority. What meaner act can a person do than to squirm round and get the opinion of others and keep his own from them. What greater proof do you want than an act like this to prove the meanness of a person? If he has not practiced it, how came he by the name of non committal. I have seen similar kinds of management. This is a great discovery. You have nothing to do after finding out how the question is to be decided, but to come out and make more noise among the people than any other person, and you will be at the head of those who have done all the fighting and labor. Observe gentlemen, he that would enrich himself at the expense of another, or appropriate to himself

alone the treasures of his country, has forfeited his dignity and sunk beneath the level of the brute. So much for management and intrigue.

We know Van Buren has held quite a number of offices, and I know many offices are often obtained through intrigue. I give him no credit for holding so many.

We know Gen. Jackson says he is opposed to having so many banks. Who is at the head of those who can get a bank in half the time they could a few years past? I call them Van Buren's banks, for they seem to be conducted in rather an underhanded way. I must say, I am afraid of them. I fear I shall find them what the leaders have told us, that paper money is nothing but rags. If we do they can turn about and say they told us so, and we ought to have minded them, and not took rag money. If they do all this it will be no meaner than for them to oppose banks, and charter two with less trouble than one could be had before they came out so zealous to oppose banks.

Permit me to call your attention to a subject that we do not understand as well as we know how to calculate about land and money. It may be a little interesting to you. You know the bull dog has a thick head, a cur dog's head is not so thick, and the hound's head is not as thick as the cur dog's head. I mean to measure through their head from ear to ear. You know the bull dog will fight harder than the cur dog; you also know that the cur dog will fight harder than the hound. You know the cat and owl have thick heads. The hound, sheep, rabbit, and goose all have thin heads; these you see do not fight and tear flesh to pieces but little. The bull dog, cat and owl all have thick heads, and they all will fight hard and tear flesh to pieces; the fox's head is very broad on the top, you know he is a cunning, sly creature; you must watch your fowls and lands if the fox is near them. Some people believe they can tell all about a person by his head. Can tell whether he is honest or dishonest; whether he loves to do good or evil, &c. I am well aware that a person can appear a saint when he is a bad person. I have been a number of times close to Martin Van Buren. I have closely examined him; his head is broader on the top than any person that I ever saw or noti-

ced. He does not look out of his eyes like other men, he rather peeps up under his eye-lashes, appears to see you when you would hardly notice him. I have heard a number of persons who understood this science of telling the character of a person by his head, speak of Martin Van Buren's head; They said his head denoted a sly, cunning person, similar to the fox; a person may be sly and cunning and not have much good sense.

It appears to me that if any one would reflect on the case of Van Buren's opposing our money being distributed among the people must put him down as a person not possessing a good share of common sense. It appears to me that it would be impossible for a set of officers to keep our money from us; an attempt to do it must rouse every person who understands that we have that great sum that cannot be used by the government. If the people had not Gen. Jackson on their side they would not submit. As they have Gen. Jackson on their side, I feel that it would be as much impossible to quiet the people, and keep their money from them, as it would be for a person to keep a horse still among a number of bee-hives and the horse half covered with bees. I have seen a number of gentlemen in New York, and I am authorized to say that they will petition our legislature to have a large sum of our money distributed in every county, and to be put into the hands of the supervisors of the county, for the use of the people. One gentleman named the sum of fifty thousand dollars to a county. I presume that there will be money enough in the Treasury this year, over and above paying all the government expenses, for this county to have seventy thousand dollars. If we receive fifty, it will be twice as much as to pay all our taxes and school bills. We can use the other part on our roads, or as we please to use it. It is supposed that Van Buren will try to get the Legislature of this State, and all the other states, not to receive the money. If they will not receive the money then we shall not have the money. The plan will be for every county to have a meeting, or for every town to have a meeting, and petition the Legislature to receive our money; and all those members who are to be voted for this fall, the people must know that they will vote to receive the money, and to

let the supervisors of each county have the money for the use of the people, to be used as the people wish to use it, or they must not be held up for members. In this way we are as sure to get the money as we are to live till the time comes. Every honest Jackson man will of course assist to carry out this measure of dividing our money among the people as Gen. Jackson recommended. Let Van Buren and his shavers do their best, our money I am sure we shall have if they have not got it into banks that will wrong us out of it.

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*A sketch of the character of Gen. Harrison.*

I have given you a short sketch of Van Buren's character. If I say all that I wish to say about Van Buren, the people are prepared to receive it. I do not wish to say any thing but the truth, and hope they will examine to see whether these things are so. It is not the case in reference to Harrison. If I say all I wish to say of him, it will not be so readily received, and examined with that spirit and warm feeling as it will be what I say of Van Buren. The mind must be prepared to receive before it can believe. As it respects these two candidates the people have formed an opinion of them, and what ever I say to strengthen and support their opinion of them will be readily received. If I say something contrary to that opinion it will not be received at first to be true. It is contrary to the opinion they have all readily formed, and they cannot believe it at first. I wish to be understood, and I shall be plain. To illustrate the idea I shall state a few cases. When I came from Washington I rode in the stage with Col. Conkling, of Huntington. I stated to him that a number of people told me, and Mr. Adams told me the same, that he did not furnish that east room of the president's house, as he was charged with furnishing. The Col. replied he did not believe that. He believed Mr. Adams *did* furnish that room. The Col. is an honest man; he did not doubt but I was informed as I had stated. As he had been told Mr. Adams



*did* furnish that room and he did believe it, how could he change his mind and believe what I said?

Had I told an other honest man, who was of the opinion that Mr. Adams *did not* furnish that east room, he would have replied, I never did believe Mr. Adams did furnish that room; I always did believe it was *false*. These two persons, both honest men, had made up their opinion on what they had heard before. They both answered according to their established opinion, and what I could say, or what Mr. Adams and all the people at Washington could say, could not change their opinion, till a proper process had taken place in their mind. A person who stood high in the estimation of an other person had done a most disgraceful act—it became generally known and believed. This person who had this good opinion, had heard what the other said to convict the person of the crime; the witness was not doubted by this person. After all this, the person says to me, I cannot believe it; I know this person was honest. The opinion was so good, and the impression so strong it appeared almost impossible to change that opinion. For instance, take a Roman Catholic, a Mahometan, a Mormonite, a Swedenborgian, tell one of these their leader was an impostor; they will not believe you. Their opinion has become a species of their nature, and it is natural for them to believe as they do. The understanding must be convinced before they can change their opinion. I shall not blame others who differ with me in opinion if they are honest in such opinion. Col. Conkling is an honest man. He believed Mr. Adams furnished that room. If no person dare to take the fair offer I have made, Col. Conkling will change his opinion after a while. It must have time. I hope I am understood. People have formed an opinion of Harrison and Van Buren. What can I expect to effect? Can I expect to change their minds? If I can cause the people to reflect, they will change their minds after a while. That is if the witnesses that I bring cannot be disputed, and that is all I expect to do. I had one year ago formed an opinion of Harrison and Van Buren. Since that time I have taken much pains to know whether that opinion I had formed was correct. This opinion was formed from common report, it

was not from reading. My opinion of Van Buren was, that he was a learned man; but, from the circumstance that he was called a non-committal, I thought him a dishonest man. I am acquainted with similar characters, though they are not so far advanced as to have the title of non-committal. A gentleman told me that such a person told him that he was a Jackson man. I replied, I did not know that before, he is a learned man and a great reader, and I observed that he did not commit himself on either side. I heard him say he could not tell how the election was going. Just before the election came on, in the state of New York, he came out a warm Adams man, and appeared to do all he could for the support of Mr. Adams. A few months before he had told this gentleman that he was a Jackson man. So much I state to you and much more I might state, from my own knowledge of the *non-committals*. The generally conceived idea of a person that has the character of non-committal is this. It is a person that squirms round others, gets their opinions, keeps his own from them till he finds out how the questions are to be decided, then comes out on the strongest side. Then if he can make more noise than any other person he is at the head, though he came from the meanest place that can be found. Such was the conceived opinion I had of Van Buren. And I believe all reflecting men had that opinion of him. No person can be called honest who is guilty of such conduct. If Van Buren had not practiced on that principle, he would not likely have had that character. If I say he is an open and fair person, people would not believe me. And the people having formed that opinion of him, that he is rather sly and slippery, I cannot change their opinion, by coming out and saying that he is an open fair man, ready to give his opinion at almost any time. If I state I can prove he is not an honest man, the people would say, I did not expect him hardly honest, their minds are prepared to receive that. If I say he is a learned man, they will say, I believe that. If I say he is not a learned man they would say, I do not believe that, and so I am placed in regard to Gen. Harrison. If I say he (Gen. H.) is a learned and wise man the people cannot believe it. If I say he is one of the best Generals that ever was in America,

they will not believe it. If I say he is a farmer and a middling smart man, with a small education, not hardly enough to fill the office of a president, they would believe me. If I say he has a good common education, not what we call a college education, I do not mean, he might possibly do to teach a common school, and a pretty good General, nothing very extraordinary. He beat the British, or rather his good soldiers did. I know in this way I could get along; for this is the generally received opinion of Gen. Harrison. I mean among those who do not read much. A number of persons who are opposed to this administration, I have conversed with about Gen. Harrison. One spoke in this way; He said, they say he has not much learning. He may have as much as Gen. Jackson. This person being opposed to Gen. Jackson was of the opinion that he had not much learning. I said to a person a friend to Harrison, how can people who supported Gen. Jackson for services he had done his country by fighting for it, support Van Buren, when Gen. Harrison has fought for his country more than Gen. Jackson. He said they say Van Buren was a statesman and a learned man; he knows a great deal. Harrison had fought for his country but has not much learning. And I suppose they support Van Buren for his learning. It would certainly be bad policy to support a person for president, who was not qualified, because he had fought a number of battles for his country. We could honor him some other way. It could not be any honor to a person to put him in an office that he was not capable of filling. If it is the opinion of Harrison's friends that he has not much learning and hardly fit for the office of president, which certainly is the opinion of many who have not taken much pains to inform themselves, what is the honest opinion of those who are opposed to him and have not taken pains to inform themselves. They honestly believe him uneducated and not fit for the office, and this opinion thousands have of Gen. Harrison. These persons are not to be blamed for such an opinion. The people generally feel as if they could not spend time to read for themselves, and they put confidence in others, and believe as they tell them. As deception is practiced by a number of leaders, they by that means deceive the people, and it appears

hard to do justice to any person when a few bad men are determined that justice shall not be done to them. I am aware of all this. It appears to be strange how these impressions are made upon our minds, and we not sensible of it. It is done by bad persons, who make it a part of their business, to speak against those whom they wish to injure.

One newspaper speaks of Gen. Harrison and admits that he has been a county clerk, or something like it. Another paper states that we have turned inside out and searched every corner of fifty papers to see what were the objections raised against the democratic candidate for president. And this is absolutely all. And what is this all do you suppose? One charges Van Buren of leading the President; and another charges him of being led by the president, and others that he is determined to emancipate all the negroes as soon as he comes into power, another speaks of his English carriage and horses, another charges him of being worth a million, another print brings forward an old letter written by Samuel McKean of Pennsylvania. After making his short comments on this, he says, if we exchange Mr. Van Buren for Mr. Harrison we shall gain nothing in this respect, and set aside a very able for a very imbecile old man. I wonder he had not said an old imbecile man. He states with regard to Mr. McKean's opinion of Mr. Van Buren, it is evident that it was not very favorable. After some comment on this letter he states, if any of Mr. Van Buren's friends can be induced to fall off from his support, because one print says he is worth a million of dollars, and because Mr. McKean was against him in 1832, they are not the men we took them for. We need not wonder that false impressions are made on the minds of the people, if we will only examine the public newspapers. It is from the public newspapers that the people expect to get the true character of our public officers. I am sure that the people are not to blame because they believe Harrison has hardly learning enough to fill the office of president, or that he is not much of a man. When one paper admits he has been a county clerk, or something like that, another calls Harrison a very imbecile man. Webster's dictionary of the definition of the word *imbecile*, as it applies to a person, is feeble, unforti-



fed, inconclusive, languid, weak, faint, dull, wanting competent power. Now this description of Harrison is as false as it can be. It does not apply to Gen. Harrison any more than it does to Gen. Jackson. The other paper admits he has been a county clerk, or something like that. I have not that paper and cannot say precisely what it says; something similar though it read. I have the paper that calls him a very imbecile man. I cannot conceive what the paper could have said that would be further from the truth, or more false than to call Gen. Harrison a very imbecile man. I am of the opinion that it is as false as to say that there is no such a man as Gen. Harrison, nor never was. I hope the reader will pardon me on his part for being so severe, as he cannot feel as I do. I have been living near six months at Washington city where I often saw gentlemen who were neighbors to Gen. Harrison; as it were, and they gave me a history of his acts. His political opponents did not pretend to deny what they said in reference to Gen. Harrison. I hope I shall be able to satisfy the reader that there is no more truth in the saying that Gen. Harrison is a very imbecile man, than there was in the charge that was made against Mr. Adams for spending \$40,000 to furnish the east room of the president's house, as it is called, when he did not spend one dollar to furnish said room.

I inquired particularly of a number of gentlemen, if Gen. Harrison was an *honest man*? they said he was and they further stated that it was not said by any person that he was not an honest man. I was with his political opponents and they did not pretend to say that he was not an honest man. They also stated that he was a very active, spirited man, and a very feeling, good man. The Indians liked him, as they had found him honest. He was liked by the people generally, and was as brave a General as could be found. One gentleman presented me a book that contains the life of Gen. Harrison. It contains 464 pages, and I dare vouch for the truth of it. It has a number of letters that were written by officers who were engaged in the battles with Gen. Harrison. I shall present part of a number of letters; you can then judge whether the charge is false or true to call Gen. Harri-

son a very imbecile man. This book was written by Moses Dawson of Cincinnati. You will find that those officers do not call Gen. Harrison a very imbecile man. Do not forget what the newspapers call Gen. Harrison; you can compare the opinions of the officers with the newspapers. You will agree with me in part that the newspapers darken the understanding and deceive us. Was I not able to lay before you the opinions of a number of officers who were in the army and in the battles that were fought by Gen. Harrison, I could not expect to counteract that strong impression that has been made by the leaders of the Van Buren party. As I can lay these opinions before you, I am in hopes to be able to counteract these false impressions and opinions you have of Gen. Harrison.

I never was more disappointed in the character of any person, or any thing, that I had formed an opinion of, than I was in the character of Gen. Harrison. I could not seem to believe what they told me, as it was not disputed by those who were opposed to him in politics, I had to believe it and to change my opinion I had formed of Harrison. It really seems to appear that the Van Buren men have a great faculty to come round the people and to establish any thing as they wish to have it. I cannot see how they do it. They certainly are much more zealous than those opposed to them. Some of the principal leaders of the Van Buren party do not regard the truth at all. They are prepared any time to say that which is calculated to help their party. In this way they, I believe, come round us. If they could lower the character of Gen. Harrison in the minds of the people it would raise Van Buren. This they have completely effected. Harrison's friends in Suffolk do not it appears to me think one half as much of him as they would if they really knew what he was. There are some people vile enough to try to erase from our minds what little respect we have for him.

I shall only give you a short sketch of Gen. Harrison, together with the principal part of the offices he has held; then I shall present to you extracts from a number of letters from the book; then you can know who Gen. Harrison is, and how he stands in the opinion of his officers; then you can judge

whether a person could probably fill all those offices, unless he was a learned and wise man. General William Henry Harrison was born of respectable parents, on the 9th February 1773, at a place called Berkely, on the bank of the James River, about 25 miles from Richmond, in the State of Virginia. His father, Mr. Benjamin Harrison, descended from one of Cromwell's Generals, of that name. He represented the State of Virginia in Congress in the years 1774, 1775, 1776. He was chairman of the committee of the whole House, when the celebrated Declaration of Independence was agreed to, and was one of those illustrious patriots who signed that important instrument. In the year '77 he was chosen Speaker of the House of Delegates in the State Legislature, which office he continued to fill till the year 1782, when he succeeded Governor Nelson as Governor of Virginia. I only give a short sketch of his father to show you that he was one of the fathers of our liberty and independence. I hope that we will do justice to his son, for his father's sake; for we know they suffered much for us, and from their suffering we became free and independent men. I do not wish to work on your passions only enough to raise you to a sense of justice, that you may do your duty to one who has served his country more than any other person who is now living in America. Did I not believe I could prove it to you that he has served his country more than any other person, I should not say it. You must weigh well the witnesses I produce to prove that he has served his country more than any other man that is living in America. Gen. William H. Harrison was educated at Hampden Sydney College; and by the advice of his friends turned his attention to the study of medicine. But about the period when he had completed his education, the increased and barbarous hostilities of the Indians on our northwestern borders, began to excite a feeling of indignation throughout the whole country. In this general excitement our young student participated so warmly, that he resolved to relinquish his professional pursuits and join the army destined to the defence of the Ohio frontier. He received the commission of an ensign in the United States artillery in the autumn of the year 1791, when only eighteen years of age—this does not look

like a very imbecile young man, to quit his study, join an army, receive an office at 18 years of age. His bosom swelled then at that age with love of liberty and patriotism. He was then promoted to the office of Lieutenant, then selected by Gen. Wayne as one of his aid-de-camps, at the age of nineteen. The army soon marched into the Indian country and fought the bloody and desperate battle of the Miami; in which the confederated Indians, with their allies, were totally defeated. Gen. Wayne after the battle, in a letter to the Secretary says, my faithful and gallant aid-de-camps, Capt. DeButts and T. Lewis, and Lieut. Harrison, with the Adjutant General, Major Mills, rendered the most essential service, by communicating my orders in every direction, and by their conduct and bravery exciting the troops to press for victory. Observe, the Gen. does not call Harrison a very imbecile man. This desperate and bloody battle was fought 42 years ago last August.

Soon after this battle, Lieutenant Harrison received the commission of a Captain, and was placed in command of Fort Washington the most important station on the western frontier. He remained in the army, until the close of the year 1797, when he resigned his commission. This was about six years after he had first joined the army, and received an office. He was almost immediately appointed Secretary, and ex-officio Lieut. Governor of the northwestern territory, which then embraced the whole extent of our country, lying northwest of the Ohio river; thus receiving his first civil appointment in that part of our country, which he had perilled his life to defend. He was almost unanimously elected delegate to Congress. Harrison was at this time about twenty-six years of age; at that time no person could buy any less land than 4000 acres, unless it was a remnant. Harrison got a law passed to sell as small a piece as 320 acres of land; this you see must have been of great advantage to the poor people. He then was appointed Governor of Indiana. The people were so fond of him that for thirteen years, at every successive expiration of his term of office, he was appointed Governor. Who is that man that has been Governor for thirteen years, besides Gen. Harrison? No person can have any conception of the



trouble that he had with the Indians. He had to go among them, and often at the risk of his life.

At last war broke out between the Indians and the whites. Harrison with an army marched into their country, and when within a few miles of their town, he sent a flag of truce to endeavor to open an amicable negotiation with the hostile Indians. To this overture the prophet returned a reply, and agreed to meet Harrison the next day, in council with his chiefs, to settle the terms of peace. Harrison carefully selected for his encampment the best place, and ordered his troops to lie upon their arms all night, that they might be in readiness at a moment's warning to repel any sudden attack of the enemy. Two hours before day-light a sentinel at one of the outposts discovered an Indian creeping towards the camp. He immediately gave the alarm, and almost at the same instant a strong body of the enemy rushed towards the encampment with the most savage yells. They made a furious charge on the left of the camp. The battle raged with great fury till the dawn of day, when a simultaneous charge was made upon the enemy on either flank, and they were speedily put to flight, with great loss, and the battle terminated. Every man in this battle encountered his share of danger, but no man was in more personal peril than Gen. Harrison. He was well known to many of the Indians, and they of course would kill him if they could. This was a dreadfully hard fought and bloody battle, in which was killed and wounded 188 of the whites. This was fought November, 1811.

War was declared against Great Britain, in June 1812—this was more than twenty years after Harrison's first commission. Gen. Hull was sent with an army into Canada. He soon marched his army out into our country; the English army followed him, and the British General ordered him to surrender his army and the fort he was in, and Gen. Hull did so. This act did much disgrace us; it was felt by every person to be very mortifying. Gen. Harrison soon after had the command of our army, and after a number of days spent in fighting, he beat the British and drove them out of our country. He followed them into Canada—there he fought them, and beat them, and took most all their army, excepting



the Indian army, together with all the baggage of the enemy and their valuable military stores, together with the official papers of Proctor, and several pieces of brass cannon, which had been taken from the British in our revolutionary victories, but which Hull had shamefully surrendered at Detroit, and were thus a second time captured from our ancient foe. After the war there was a resolution offered in Congress giving Gen. Harrison a gold medal, and the thanks of Congress. It was passed with but one dissenting voice in both Houses of Congress. What more could Congress do to show their good feeling towards Gen. Harrison than to give him their thanks? This they all did with the exception of one man. Gen. Washington could not have had but one more vote. At the battle I spoke of last, that was fought in Canada, the Indian chief Tecumthe was killed, and the British gave his wife a pension. Shall it be said old Suffolk will not shew by her votes that she thanks Gen. Harrison for his services? shall it be said she does not respect him as much as the British did the Indian chief's wife? Their votes will tell whether they respect or thank him who has fought their enemies at the peril of his life.

After the war, Gen. Harrison was elected by a large majority, a member of the House of Representatives in Congress from Ohio. When, on the expiration of his term of service, he was chosen to the Senate of the State Legislature. In 1824, he was elected a Senator of the United States from Ohio. In 1828, he was appointed by Mr. Adams Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Colombia. He accepted this appointment, and repaired without delay to the scene of his duties.

Gen. Harrison remained in Columbia but a short time, having been recalled by the present administration, soon after it came into power. He has made thirteen treaties with the Indians. I have not given an account of all the offices he has held, and only a sketch of the war. That you may see at one glance the most of the offices Gen. Harrison has held, I will here put them together. He was Ensign in the United States artillery, in the year 1791, when only eighteen years of age. He was then Lieutenant. He was then selected by

Gen. Wayne for one of his aid-de-camps at the age of nineteen. He was Captain, and was placed in command of Fort Washington. He was Lieutenant Governor of the northwestern Territory. He was Representative in Congress. He was Governor of Indiana for thirteen years. He was Representative in Congress. He was a Senator of the State Legislature. He was a United States Senator. He was Minister to Columbia. He has made thirteen treaties with the Indians. He was elected by the people, one of the Electors of President and Vice President, and gave his vote for James Monroe and Daniel D. Tompkins.

Who has held as many offices? I would scarcely have believed that a person could have held so many offices, and been able to have acquitted himself so honorably, that his political enemies could not find a number of miscalculations, and rather bad management. We see they cannot do it, and they find they must become so cruel as to deceive us by misrepresentation, and call Gen. Harrison a very *imbecile man*. Every American and patriot ought to feel himself insulted, for the abuse offered to our well tried General.

Do you believe that Gen. Harrison is not a learned and wise man? If he was not it would not have been possible for him to have done justice in all his different stations. It appears that every office he held did seem to raise him in the estimation of the people; that they were ready to give him another. What do we see in one of our officers, that we are ready to put him in again? Do they do any thing that excites us to keep them in office? How many persons has Suffolk County sent to Congress or to the Legislature that the people ever heard from until they got home? Their friends hear from them by letters and that is most all. Harrison's people often read his speeches, and those of his own production. No man writes *his* speeches! It is about 45 years since Gen. Harrison received his first commission. He is now 64 years of age and is an active smart man.

I am now about to present you with witnesses to support what I have said of Gen. Harrison. I first offer an extract from a speech made last winter in Congress by Mr. Storer of Ohio—he made a number of extracts from the book that was

written by Moses Dawson—to prove to you that the writer of the life of Gen. Harrison, appeared to do it from an honest principle, that the people might know what Gen. Harrison is. He appears to be the warm friend of those who came forward to serve their country, without any reference to party. He was a warm supporter of Gen. Jackson. He appears always ready to defend the character of the brave man. I mention this to prove that the life of Gen. Harrison was not written by Harrison's political friend, but by an honest man, as he says he did it to preserve many documents that would otherwise be lost. It appears he has not spared any pains to collect such witnesses in support of Gen. Harrison that must put down every person that does speak against him. We know that there are a few persons who have no regard for the truth, they will slander a person let his character be what it may. There are a few unprincipled persons to be found to slander Gen. Harrison. I only give short extracts, you will observe, of letters, and affidavits, and opinions, that have been given, in reference to Harrison's character. I do not extract from near all of them. The writer was so zealous that he meant to place Harrison so high, in point of proof, if there could be found any so vile as would injure him, that they could only point at him as we can at the sun, but could not touch him. Clouds pass between us and the sun and hide it from us for a moment, it appears to shine brighter after they pass away.

“UNITED STATES SCHOONER ARIEL, Sept. 15, 1813.

“SIR:—The very great assistance, in the action of the 10th inst., derived from those men you were pleased to send on board the squadron, renders it a duty to return to you my sincere thanks for so timely a reinforcement. In fact, I may say, sir, without these men, the *victory could not have been achieved*; and equally to assure you that they behaved as became good soldiers and seamen. Those who were under my immediate observation evinced great ardor and bravery.\*

Very respectfully, OLIVER H. PERRY.

Maj. Gen. W. H. HARRISON.”

“On the 4th of July, 1813, Colonel Richard M. Johnson ad-

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\* 5 Niles Register, 263.

addressed a letter to General Harrison, from which I ask the committee to permit me to read an extract :

“ Two great objects induced us to come : First, to be at the regaining of our own Territory, and Detroit, and at the taking of Malden ; and, secondly, to serve under an officer in whom we have confidence. We would not have engaged in the service without such a prospect—we did not want to serve under cowards nor traitors, but under *one* who had proved himself to be *wise, prudent, and brave.*”

Sir, I have found these testimonials in the life of Gen. Harrison, published in 1824, by Moses Dawson, Esq., who is, on this subject, a most disinterested and competent witness. He, sir, is now, and always has been, an ardent, a consistent supporter of the present administration ; he came not into the party at the eleventh hour, but, acting upon his original principles, he has ever defended the fame of the brave man, whose military services he has so faithfully recorded.”

*Col. Richard M. Johnson's opinion of Gen. Harrison.*

“ Who is GEN. HARRISON ? The son of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, who spent the greater part of his large fortune, in redeeming the pledge he then gave, of his ‘fortune, life, and sacred honor,’ to secure the liberties of his country.

“ Of the career of Gen. Harrison I need not speak—the History of the west, is his history. For forty years he has been identified with its interests, its perils, and its hopes. Universally beloved in the walks of peace, and distinguished by his ability in the councils of his country, he has been yet more illustriously distinguished in the field.

“ During the late war, he was longer in active service than any other General Officer ; he was perhaps oftener in action than any one of them, and never sustained a defeat.”

*Col. Johnson's speech in Congress.*

“ In December, the month after the battle, the legislature of Kentucky, on the motion of J. H. Hawkins, Esq., went into mourning for the loss of Colonels Daveiss, Owen, and others, who had fallen at Tippecanoe ; and in the same session, while this battle was the subject of much discussion, the



following resolution, moved by J. J. Crittenden, Esq., was adopted with two or three dissenting votes—" *Resolved, &c.* That in the late campaign against the Indians on the Wabash, Governor W. H. Harrison has, in the opinion of this legislature, behaved like a hero, a patriot, and a general; and that for his cool, deliberate, skilful, and gallant conduct in the battle of Tippecanoe, he well deserves the warm thanks of the nation."

"The veteran soldier, governor Charles Scott, approved this resolution, which at once gave tone to the popularity of Harrison, effectually turning the tide in his favor, and reducing the clamor of his enemies to private murmurs."

"The battle of Tippecanoe having terminated a campaign which led us to glory and honor, it is with pain we behold aspersions in the public prints aiming to destroy the confidence of our country in our late commander-in-chief.

"Governor Harrison having relinquished the command of the army lately employed against the Indians, and probably as an officer left us forever, the present statement cannot be attributed to servile flattery, but to the true and honest expression of our real sentiments, in favor of a general whose talents, military science, and patriotism, entitle him to a high rank among the worthies of the union; and whom we consider injured by the gross misrepresentations of the ignorant or designing, who are alike inimical to the best of governments and the best of men.

"We therefore deem it our duty to state as incontestible facts, that the commander-in-chief throughout the campaign, and in the hour of battle, proved himself the soldier and the general; that on the night of the action, by his order, we slept on our arms, and rose on our posts; that notwithstanding the darkness of the night, and the most consummate savage cunning of the enemy in eluding our sentries, and rapidity in rushing through the guards, we were not found unprepared: that few of them were able to enter our camp, and those few doomed never to return; that in pursuance of his orders, which were adapted to every emergency, the enemy were defeated with a slaughter almost unparalleled among savages. Indeed, one sentiment of confidence, respect, and affection to-



wards the commander-in-chief pervaded the whole line of the army, which any attempt to destroy we shall consider as an insult to our understandings, and an injury to our feelings.

"Should our country again require our services to oppose a civilized or savage foe, we should march under the command of Governor Harrison, with the most perfect confidence of victory and fame.

JOEL COOK, capt. fourth infy.

JOSIAH SMELLING, capt. 4th U. S. infy.

R. C. BARTON, capt. 4th infy.

O. G. BURTON, lieut. 4th infy.

NATH. F. ADAMS, lieut. 4th regt. infy.

CHARLES FULLER, lieut. 4th regt.

A. HAWKINS, lieut. 4th infy.

GEORGE GOODING, 2d lieut. 4th infy.

H. BURCHSTEAD, ensign 4th regt. U. S. infy.

JOSIAH D. FOSTER, surgeon 4th infy.

HOSEA BLOOD, act. assist. surg. 4th infy."

"For this latter work we are indebted to the politeness of that distinguished officer, Gen. James Miller. From the 31st page of this book we extract the following, which closes Mr. Walker's account of the battle.

"General Harrison received a shot through the rim of his hat. In the heat of the action his voice was frequently heard, and easily distinguished, giving his orders in the same calm, cool, and collected manner with which we had been used to receive them on a drill or parade. The confidence of the troops in the General was unlimited, and his measures were well calculated to gain their particular esteem.

"That reproach is often dealt out with a liberal hand where praise is due, I have lived long enough in the world to witness; and perhaps in no case is justice less likely to be done, than one which respects the conduct of a commander in battle. For every one conceives himself a perfect judge of what ought to have been done, and rests secure from contradiction, because no one can say with certainty, how it might have resulted.

"That you have done credit to yourself, and rendered, at a moment like this, important service to your country, will be

acknowledged by her true friends, and by none with more pleasure than your friend, sincerely,

CHARLES SCOTT.

"His Excellency, Governor W. H. Harrison."

"A faithful narrative, founded on authentic documents, has thus been given of Mr. Harrison's conduct from the day on which he became completely a public character, as Governor of the Territory of Indiana, till the battle of Tippecanoe. We shall conclude this part of the subject with a few reflections:

By what has been said it must appear to every candid and dispassionate reader that the policy pursued by the government of the United States towards the Indians was dictated by the purest principles of morality and good faith, that its wisdom was only equalled by its humanity, and that it was impossible for that government to have chosen an agent for carrying into effect the object in view, whose principles, and whose conduct could be more in unison with that policy, humane and enlightened as it was, than Governor Harrison.

It must, in fact, be evident to the most fastidious reader, that the negotiations and communications of the Governor with the Indians were conducted with patience, forbearance, conciliation, and benevolence, unparalleled in the history of diplomacy under the guidance of any other government, or any other administration of our government that ever preceded it."

*"Head Quarters, camp Miami Rapids, Feb. 20, 1813.*

"SIR—The service of the troops under our respective commands, in many cases having expired, and in all being about to close, it becomes necessary that we should shortly retire from the field. Permit us, Sir, (the general and field officers from the state of Ohio,) to address you at a moment in which the eyes of the whole people of the United States are directed toward your movements ; at a time the inhabitants of the state of Ohio have every thing to hope from your success, and every thing to dread from unfortunate events, should such attend your operations.

Sir, we are happy in assuring you of our fullest confidence, and that of our respective commands, in the measures you

have taken ; they have been cautious, skilful, and guarded, such as would at this time have carried our arms to the walls of Malden, had not the unhappy occurrence at the river Raisin checked your progress, and for a short time thwarted your plans of operation. That you may soon teach the enemy the distinction between an honorable and savage warfare, by planting our standard in the heart of their country, and regain the honor and territory we have lost, and as a just tribute to valor, toils, and suffering, receive the grateful thanks of a generous and free people, is among the first, the warmest wishes of our hearts.

EDWARD W. TUPPER, Brigadier General.

SIMON PERKINS, Brigadier General.

CHARLES MILLER, Colonel.

JOHN ANDREWS, Lieut. Colonel.

WILLIAM RAYEN, Colonel.

ROBERT SAFFORD, Lt.Col. 5d rgt. Ohio quota.

N. BEASLEY, Major.

JAMES GALLOWAY, Major.

SOLOMON BENTLEY, Major.

GEORGE DARROW, Major.

W. W. COTGREAVE, Major.

JACOB FREDERICK, Major.

*"His Excellency WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, Commander-in-chief of the North Western Army."*

"Every moment of the General was occupied in directing the works. He addressed the men in the most masterly and eloquent manner on the situation in which the fortune of war had placed them, and of the importance of every man's being vigilant at his post. This address converted every man into a hero : it inspired them with a zeal, courage, and patriotism never surpassed.

"On the 28th the enemy commenced a very brisk fire of small arms.

"On the 29th the seige began in earnest, all communication with the other post was cut off. The firing was kept up the whole day.

"April 30—The besieged kept up a well directed fire against the enemy's batteries and considerably impeded their

progress. Boats filled with men were seen to pass to the Fort Meigs side of the river ; this induced the General to believe that their intention was to draw his attention to their batteries, and to surprise and storm the camp in the rear.

May 1—The enemy fired 256 times from their gun batteries. Their twenty-four pound shots passed through the pickets without cutting them down. Our gunners silenced one of their pieces several times.

“On the 2d of May both parties commenced firing very early with bombs and balls, and continued very briskly all day.

“The next day commenced with a very brisk and fierce firing of bombs and cannon balls, and continued at intervals all day. They opened two batteries upon the fort.

“It rained very hard on the 4th, which retarded the fire of the besiegers.—A new battery was discovered erected on this side of the river.”

You here see the British were six days trying to take the fort and Gen. Harrison and army. It could not be done. The British General had ordered Gen. Harrison to surrender, you see the words sent back.

“*Gen. Harrison.*—I believe I have a very correct idea of general Proctor’s force ; it is not such as to create the least apprehension for the result of the contest, whatever shape he may be pleased hereafter to give to it. Assure the general, however, that he will never have this post *surrendered* to him upon any terms. Should it fall into his hands, it will be in a manner calculated to do him more honor, and to give him larger claims upon the gratitude of his government, than any capitulation could possibly do.”

*Lower Seneca Town, August 29, 1813.*

“The undersigned, being the general, field, and staff officers, with that portion of the north western army under the immediate command of Gen. Harrison, have observed with regret and surprise, that charges as improper in the form, as in the substance, have been made against the conduct of General Harrison during the recent investment of Lower Sandusky.



"On a review of the course then adopted, we are decidedly of the opinion, that it was such as was dictated by military wisdom, and by a due regard to our own circumstances and to the situation of the enemy. The reasons for this opinion it is evidently improper now to give, but we hold ourselves ready at a future period, and when other circumstances shall have intervened, to satisfy every man of its correctness who is anxious to investigate and willing to receive the truth. And with a ready acquiescence, beyond the mere claims of military duty, we are prepared to obey a General, whose measures meet our most deliberate approbation, and merit that of his country.

LEWIS CASS, Brig. Gen. U. S. A.  
 SAMUEL WELLS, Col. 17th R. U. S. I.  
 THOS. D. OWINGS, Col. 28th R. U. S. I.  
 GEORGE PAULL, Col. 17th R. U. S. I.  
 J. C. BARTLETT, Col. Q. M. G.  
 JAMES V. BALL, Lieut. Col.  
 ROBERT MORRISON, Lieut. Col.  
 GEORGE TODD, Maj. 19th R. U. S. I.  
 WILLIAM TRIGG, Maj. 28th R. U. S. I.  
 JAMES SMILEY, Maj. 28th R. U. S. I.  
 RD. GRAHAM, Maj. 17th R. U. S. I.  
 GEO. CROGHAN, Maj. 17th R. U. S. I.  
 L. HUKILL, Maj. & Ass. Insp. Gen.  
 E. D. WOOD, Maj. Engineers."

"During the whole of this long and arduous pursuit, no man could make greater exertions or use more vigilance than you did to overtake Proctor, whilst the skill and promptitude with which you arranged the troops for battle, and the distinguished zeal and bravery you evinced during its continuance, merited and received my highest approbation.

"In short, sir, from the time I joined you to the moment of our separation, I believe that no commander ever did or could make greater exertions than you did to effect the great objects of the campaign. I admired your plans, and thought them executed with great energy; particularly your order of battle, and arrangements for landing on the Canada shore were calculated to inspire every officer and man with a confidence



that we could not be defeated by any thing like our own number.

"Until after I had served the campaign of 1813, I was not aware of the difficulties which you had to encounter as commander of the north western army. I have since often said, and still do believe, that the duties assigned to you on that occasion were more arduous and difficult to accomplish than any I had ever known confided to any commander; and with respect to the zeal and fidelity with which you executed that high and important trust, there are thousands in Kentucky, as well as myself, who believed it could not have been committed to better hands.

"With sentiments of the most sincere regard and esteem, I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,

ISAAC SHELBY."

*"Major General William Henry Harrison."*

"MY DEAR SIR, Although I have little or no pretensions to military knowledge as relates to an army, still I may be allowed to bear testimony to your zeal and activity in the pursuit of the British army under general Proctor, and to say, the prompt change made by you in the order of battle on discovering the position of the enemy always has appeared to me to have evinced a high degree of military talent. I concur most sincerely with the venerable Governor Shelby in his general approbation of your conduct, (as far as it came under my observation) in that campaign. With great regard, I am, my dear sir, your friend,

O. H. PERRY."

*"Major General W. H. Harrison."*

*Extract from the deposition of Colonel Todd.*

"During the whole period that I had the pleasure to be associated with General Harrison, with various opportunities of observing his conduct and appreciating his motives, I do most unequivocally declare my conviction, that the unremitted zeal, the unshaken firmness, the spotless integrity, and the consummate ability with which he conducted the north western army to complete victory amidst innumerable difficulties, (correctly estimated by those only who participated in them) secured my entire approbation, and give him just claims to the eternal gratitude of his country.

C. S. TODD."

*Extract from the deposition of Major Chambers.*

"During the whole pursuit, and indeed from the time I first joined General Harrison, he evinced in his whole conversation and conduct the most ardent disposition to push the campaign into the enemy's country, and to meet general Proctor in the field, at the same time that he evidenced a devotion to his duties which I had never seen equalled in any station.

JOHN CHAMBERS."

"You are at liberty to make what use you please of this statement; and that you may finally obtain that reward from your country which your incessant labors and toils so justly entitle you to, while commander of the North western Army, is the sincere wish of, my dear sir, your truly affectionate friend and humble servant,

ISAAC SHELBY."

Major Gen. W. H. Harrison.

*State of Kentucky, Franklin county.*

"Samuel Shannon, late chaplain to the 1st regiment of Kentucky detached militia, under the command of colonel John M. Scott, states, on oath, that he was, in the year 1812, at the commencement of the war, and has been ever since, a regular ordained minister of the Presbyterian church, in the state of Kentucky; that in the month of July or August, 1812, he was commissioned chaplain to the said regiment by the then governor Charles Scott, and marched with the first detachment of the Kentucky quota.

"He further states, that he was an officer under General Washington during a great part of the revolutionary war; and he has thought and frequently said, that the zeal, activity and military talents of Gen. Harrison resembled Gen. Washington's more than any other officer he had ever known.

SAMUEL SHANNON."

*Commonwealth of Kentucky, Franklin county, ss.,*

"Personally appeared, this day, before the subscriber, one of the Justices of the peace for said County, the Rev. Samuel Shannon, who made oath to the above statement, as witness my hand this 31st October, 1817, at Frankfort, Ky.

C. S. TODD, J. P. F. C."

"He further adds, that from his knowledge of General Harrison's services in the campaign led by General Wayne, as well as in the operations carried on by him in the north west, during the late war, he then, and does now, entertain the highest confidence in his patriotism, his integrity, and his eminent military talents.

JOHN ARNOLD."

*Franklin county, ss.*

Personally appeared before the subscriber, one of the justices of the peace for said county, major John Arnold, who made oath to the preceding statement, as witness my hand, this 3d November, 1817.

C. S. TODD, J. P.

November 10, 1817.

Sir : In answer to your request I can state, that I know, of my own knowledge, that the army at fort Wayne was very much dissatisfied when General Harrison was about to surrender the command to General Winchester, and that *Gen. Harrison did use his exertions and influence to reconcile the men, without which it is my opinion the army would not have submitted to it.* The men were much displeased at the change, and spoke to me about it. I let them know it would be better to wait and hear what General Harrison would say to it, and not to think of any measures that would throw the army into confusion; *and I can truly say it was my opinion General Harrison was the means of the men's going on as they did with General Winchester.* I could state much of the conversation that passed in camp, fort Wayne, and Defiance; but think it unimportant. From your friend

JAMES SUGGET,

*Late Chaplain and Adj. to Col. Johnson's corps.*

Gen. Wm. H. Harrison.

"We cannot in justice to General Harrison close this narrative without giving a few out of the many documents in our possession to show the estimation in which he was held by many of the most distinguished individuals in our country; and first the following extract from a letter of the gallant and lamented Perry in December, 1813, will show at once the warmth of his friendship for Harrison, and his high opinion of his talents as a commander ;

" You know what has been my opinion as to the future commander-in-chief of the army. I do not pride myself a little, I assure you, on seeing my predictions so near being verified; yes, my dear friend, I expect soon to hail you as the chief who is to redeem the honor of our arms in the north."

" The sentiments expressed in the letter from which the above is quoted reminds us of a circumstance mentioned by the Hon. J. S. Smith, and John Chambers, Esq. in their depositions relative to the campaign of 1813, in which it will be recollected that these gentlemen served together with Perry as volunteer aids-de-camp to General Harrison. We mention this only as another evidence of the friendship of Perry for Harrison, and the great interest he took for his safety. These gentlemen state that Perry expressed to them, and afterwards to Harrison himself, his disapprobation of the commanding general exposing his person so much as he did at the attack made by the Indians on the advance of the army at Chatham, and afterwards in the action on the Thames, General Harrison defended his conduct by observing that "with undisciplined troops, and particularly with volunteers, it was necessary the General should set the example."

In the debate in the house of representatives in February 1814, on the loan bill, Mr. Cheves of South Carolina thus expresses himself, "The victory of Harrison was such as would have secured to a Roman General, in the best days of the republic, the honors of a triumph. He put an end to the war in the uppermost Canada."\*

The influence which General Harrison possessed over the minds of the militia and volunteers who served under him, and the zeal with which they performed their duty under the severest deprivations, whilst the same men were ready to mutiny under other commanders, has often been spoken of. Upon being asked how he managed to procure that control over them, he answered, "By treating them with affection and kindness, by always recollecting that they were my fellow citizens whose feelings I was bound to respect, and on

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\* See Supplement to Fifth Volume Niles' Register, page 116.



every occasion to share the hardships which they were obliged to undergo. By these means, whenever it became necessary to act with rigor towards them, they were convinced that it proceeded from a sense of duty, and not from an arbitrary disposition, or to show my authority over them."

The following is an extract of a letter from general M'Arthur of this state, to General Harrison, dated Albany, February 22, 1814: "You, Sir, stand the highest with the militia of this state of any general in service, and I am confident that no man can fight them to so great an advantage, and I think their extreme solicitude may be the means of calling you to this frontier."

The following remarks and anecdotes are taken from the Port Folio of 1815, and are given upon the authority of an officer who had served with General Harrison:

"It was General Harrison's constant practice to address his troops, personally, believing it to be more effectual than the common mode of general orders. He never omitted an opportunity of setting his troops the example of cheerfully submitting to those numerous and severe privations, incident to the carrying on of military operations, in an almost trackless desert, and in the most inclement seasons."

"During the campaign on the Wabash, the troops were put upon a half a pound of bread per day. This quantity only was allowed to officers of every rank, and rigidly conformed to in the General's own family. The allowance for dinner was uniformly divided between the company, and not an atom more was permitted. In the severe winter campaign of 1812—13, he slept under a thinner tent than any other person, whether officer or soldier: and it was the general observation of the officers, that his accommodations might generally be known by their being the worst in the army. Upon the expedition up the Thames all his baggage was contained in a valise, while his bedding consisted of a single blanket, fastened over his saddle, and even this he gave to colonel Evans, a British officer who was wounded. His subsistence was exactly that of a common soldier."

"On the night, after the action upon the Thames, thirty-five British officers supped with him upon fresh beef roasted

before the fire, without either salt or bread, and without ardent spirits of any kind. Whether upon the march, or in the camp, the whole army was regularly under arms at day break. Upon no occasion did he fail to be out himself, however severe the weather, and was generally the first officer on horseback of the whole army. Indeed, he made it a point on every occasion, to set an example of fortitude and patience to his men, and share with them every hardship, difficulty, and danger."

"Thus have we brought to a conclusion our Historical Narrative, which we presume to hope will be received by a generous and impartial public as a redemption of that pledge which we offered in the outset—to give a faithful and authentic detail of important historical facts, which might otherwise have been lost to the world; and also to place the character and conduct of a distinguished and virtuous citizen in their proper light.

"We cannot, however, lay down the pen without expressing our gratitude to those gentlemen who have so kindly lent their aid in furnishing many of the most important of the documents on which the work is founded. That no defects may be discovered in our work, we have not the vanity to suppose; but this we do confidently assert, that we have not wilfully deviated from the course prescribed to us by truth and candor, as it was from the commencement our firm determination to

"Nothing extenuate, nor aught set down in malice."

It appears to me you must be convinced that there are but a few persons who have served the people in peace and war, who have been more zealous to acquit themselves honorably, than Gen. Harrison. You see that he has thought more of his country and his honor than he has of his life. You have plenty of witnesses who testify that where there was the most danger Harrison's voice was heard. The brave Commodore Perry, you observe, blamed him for exposing himself so much. Harrison excuses himself by saying, that among the volunteers and the militia it was necessary that the commander should set the example. We all move with much more

spirit when our employer takes hold of the work and goes on bravely ahead, and says, come on my brave companions, than we do when our employer tells us to go on ahead and he will follow; such are sure not to do much, and their lazy example does not cheer us at all. You have the testimony of Colonel Richard M. Johnson to prove that General Harrison never did sustain a defeat; to the contrary, always beat the enemy. This is proof that he is a brave general. You will observe that man who is at the head of his business, he gets along, while the person who follows on behind his workmen and business does not get along very well, every thing seems to be undone and he appears always driven with work. Gen. Harrison was the first man on horseback in the morning, ready and waiting for others to come on.

When provisions were scarce he had his allowance weighed out to him the same as any other soldier. They knew where he slept by his tent, as it was the poorest. You can see plainly that Harrison put himself on a level, as it were, with his brave soldiers. They saw that he was serving his country, that he was not lifted up with pride, by reason of his office.

This is not the case with Martin Van Buren; he is a proud person. I observed that he rode in a very fine carriage with two fine horses and a driver, he did not walk like the members to the Capitol. I frequently saw him ride there, I do not remember ever seeing him walk there. I have seen him walk from the Capitol, though oftener ride. It is said that he bought his fine carriage in England. Our mechanics could not build one hardly tasty enough for him, it appears. He must believe it was wonderful pretty, and he must look pretty in it, or he would not have rode in it so often to the Capitol; it was no farther than a pleasant walk.

Their is no doubt but Harrison is one of the best of men. I am most wonderful glad that Providence has so ordered it that there should be living such a man as Gen. Harrison; and that he should be brought forward a candidate for President, and at the same time there should be an other person like Van Buren and he should also be a candidate for President. By this we shall all know who are and were the real

friends to Gen. Jackson that so often stated what he had done for his country by fighting the Indians and the British. He had done so much in that way that they called him the second Washington. The people in the West do actually call Gen. Harrison the Washington of the West. I do not believe there is a person living in America that has served his country as much in the war with our enemies, the Indians and the British, as Gen. Harrison. It is 46 years since he received his first commission, and he has been the most of his time in the service of his country. No man has a better character.

What is Van Buren's character? it is rather slippery. He is the first candidate that ever had the honorable title of non-committal—the discovery of finding out how others are to vote and keeping his opinion from them, is certainly a great discovery, and Van Buren, for the discovery, is worthy of the title. I know that a number of persons did support Gen. Jackson, from a principle that he had fought for his country. As Mr. Rich, of Corum, said “it was enough for him to know that Gen. Jackson had fought for his country”—he was a warm supporter of Gen. Jackson. These persons were honest, and they did as Mr. Rich no doubt did, they went and voted to prove their candor and good will for the person that would serve his country. I am of the opinion that Gen. Harrison has fought twice as much for his country, and has as good learning, and is as well qualified to fill the office of President; and all honest Jackson men who supported Gen. Jackson on the principle that he had fought for his country, I should certainly suppose they would support Gen. Harrison. If the people are not satisfied that Gen. Harrison has fought more for his country, I will prove it to their satisfaction. If there are persons to be found that will make a bet that is an object—this must be left to three persons to decide—whether he has fought more, and their opinion must settle the question. Those who were not honest when they said they supported Gen. Jackson because he fought for his country, they will turn round and support Van Buren, from the principle that he has, by dodging, turning, and twisting, done more for his party than any other person. This election will bring these persons out. It must be a mean person that will do a mean dishonest



act. A person must be a miserably mean person to do a dishonest act for an office that will starve him half to death, if he had to live by it. I believe it would be doing more justice to give a wood sawyer a title of honor than to give it to a person that had done a dishonest act to get an office. We do not want such persons for our officers. What can appear more disgraceful for a person who did often tell me and others that Gen. Jackson had fought for his country and we ought to vote for him. If these persons are mean enough to turn right round and support Van Buren, what will the people think of them. No person need for the sake of employment do a dishonorable act. It is not the particular name of the business that makes a man respectable, it is his good behavior. Every branch of business that is carried on that tends to make others comfortable is an honorable employment.

It is no more than justice to state, that I went to Washington from the best of motives, to collect information from public documents, that I might be sure I was correct. The greatest confidence may be placed in this statement. No person can act from better motives, or want less favor than I do from any party. I want the person for president that would be best for us. My reason and judgment, I declare to you, upon my word and honor, tells me that Gen. Harrison is more capable to fill the office of President than Van Buren, setting every other consideration aside. You have heard of a learned pig and a learned parrot; did you ever hear of one that had much good sense? I know of a number of learned and professional men whose work proves them not to have much good sense. Gen. Harrison's acts proves him to have the best of sense. His speeches and other public documents prove him to be a man of learning. I sincerely hope that you will become well acquainted with the treaty Van Buren made, that I have given you an account of. That treaty proves him to be a simpleton or a great knave. You can inquire of New York merchants, they will confirm my statements; N. Hubbard & Co., Peck Slip, No. 37. Please have the goodness to inquire concerning the treaty. His being opposed to our money being distributed, is an other simple act, as it was the will of Gen Jackson that it should be distributed.

I hope you will have the goodness to read this book through a number of times, if necessary to understand it. I meant to be so plain that any person with attention could understand me. Do not trust an office seeker or office holder to explain it to you, for I know that part of them do not know the duty of their office as well as the carman's horse knows his duty. Title and office does not give sense and learning. I observe some persons that have not sense enough to manage their own business, trying to get an office; such persons are ready to give you any explanation you want.

ERRATA.—On page 10, 16th line from the bottom, instead of "one billion six hundred and ninety million eight hundred and seventy-one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three acres," read *one billion ninety million, &c.*

















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